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### **Conyers Hails Texas Redistricting Decision as Evidence of Continuing Need for the Voting Rights Act**

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, hailed today's Supreme Court's decision, which overturned the Texas congressional redistricting plan as discriminatory against Latinos, as proof that the Voting Rights Act is still needed to protect minority voting rights.

In *LULAC v. Perry*, the Court held that the redistricting plan violated the Voting Rights Act's guaranty of equal opportunity to participate in the political process and had to be redrawn.

Conyers noted that, "While the case was decided on the basis of the Act's permanent Section 2 provision, the Court's opinion made clear that states like Texas, which are also subject to the preclearance provisions that must be renewed, are still taking actions that discriminate against minority voters. In essence, what the state did with this plan was to redraw the lines to defeat growing Latino voting strength. Given that fact, the reauthorization of Section 5 and the Section 203 language assistance provision will be of critical importance into the foreseeable future."

Conyers added that he regretted the Court's acceptance of mid-Census reapportionment because of its adverse impact on the political process and on civil rights of minority voters. "Nevertheless," he said, "this decision shows why the Voting Rights Act is still needed and why it must be extended by the Congress."

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